

appears to be intermixed in the body of the wall; and thus the outside of spawled masonry, especially, presents an almost uninterrupted surface of stone, supplementary splinters being carefully inserted in the joints of the undried wall."

Mr. Petrie believes that stone buildings were erected in Ireland earlier than is usually admitted, and gives views of some of the round barrow-like houses, built by the earlier saints. Oratories were the first stone buildings erected there for Christian uses. He gives evidence, that the churches at Armagh were built of stone and lime cement as soon as the middle of the ninth century. The openings of these early structures are covered sometimes by one large stone as a lintel, and at others by the triangular arch, if it may be so called, formed by two stones inclined towards each other at the top, which is found in the early works of so many people.

Fig. 5 (on p. 68) represents the east window of the oratory at Gallerus, built without cement.

What Rickman called "long and short" work, is very generally found in the ancient churches of Ireland. Some of the buildings are Cyclopean in style; mostly simple and unadorned. As early as the ninth century, however, the writer maintains that they exhibited ornaments and mouldings similar in some cases to those we call Anglo-Norman.

Coming on a little later, he describes some architectural remains at Glendalough, represented by fig. 3. They are part of the chancel of the church of the monastery. The chancel was originally stone-roofed, and measured internally 15 feet 6 inches by 11 feet 5 inches.

"At its east end it has a stone bench or seat, one foot eight inches in breadth, and extending the length of the wall, like that in the little chapel called the Priest's House, and at a distance of two feet from that seat stood an isolated stone altar,—since destroyed,—five feet in length, two feet eleven inches in breadth, and about four feet in height. In its south wall are three niches, one foot six inches in depth, one of which appears to have been a fenestella for a piscina, and the two others were probably ambrys, or lockers. Of these niches the first is one foot six inches in breadth, the second two feet eight inches, and the third two feet four inches. At the upper end of the north wall there is a similar niche, but of smaller size, being only one foot four inches in breadth, and one foot two inches in depth. This chancel was lighted by a single window, placed in its east end; but this was destroyed previously to the year 1770.

The nave connected with this chancel, and which appears to have been without ornament, was about forty-two feet in length, and about twenty-six feet in breadth, and seems to have been entered by a doorway placed at the eastern extremity of the south wall, near the chancel arch. On its north side there appears to have been a range of apartments for the use of the officiating clergy of the place, but their divisional walls cannot now be traced."

"This archway is a compound one, consisting of three receding piers with semi-columns, the arrangement of which will be sufficiently understood from the prefixed illustration, recently drawn. Its breadth, at its innermost arch, is ten feet, and its height to the vertex was eleven feet: the height of the semi-columns is six feet one inch and a half, of which the capitals measure nine inches and a half, the shafts four feet, the bases eight inches, and the plinths eight inches."

We regret that we have not space to follow Mr. Petrie through his interesting inquiry; the utmost we can do is to point out its scope. We cannot refrain, however, from giving views of the well-known stone-roofed church on the bank of Cashel, called Cormac's Chapel, figs. 1 and 2.

"The erection of this church is popularly and erroneously ascribed to the celebrated bishop Cormac Mac Cullenan, who was killed in the battle of Benach Maghna, in the year 908; and it is remarkable that this tradition has been received as true by several antiquaries, whose acquaintance with Anglo-Norman architecture should have led them to a different conclusion. Dr. Ledwich, indeed, who sees nothing Danish in the architecture of this church, supposes it to have been erected in the tenth or beginning of the eleventh cen-

## ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE OF IRELAND.

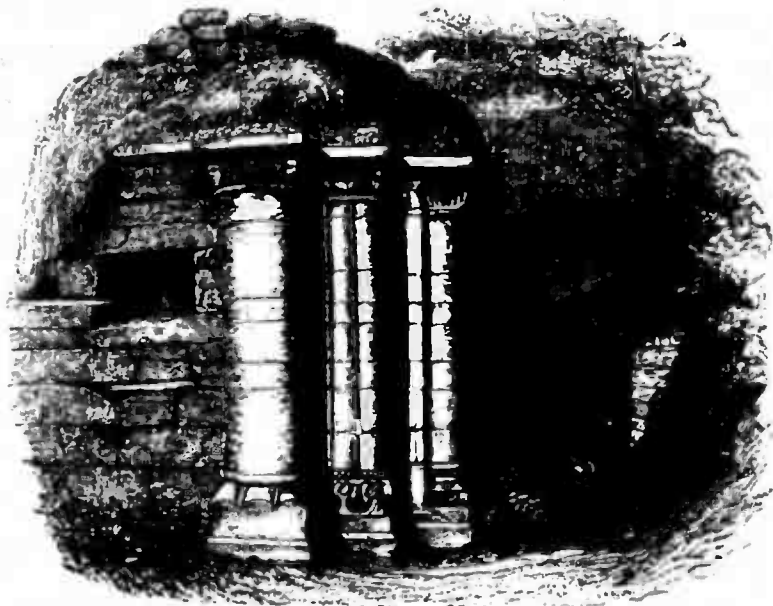


Fig. 3.

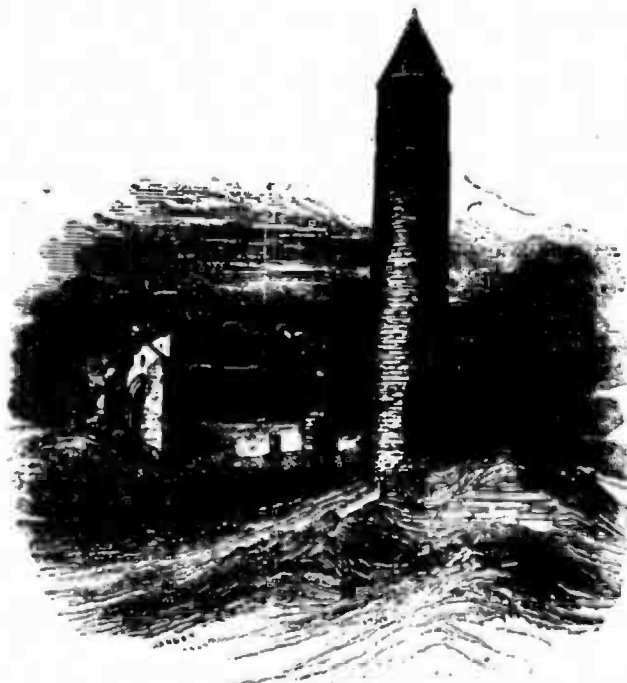


Fig. 4.

tury, by some of Cormac's successors in Cashel; but he adds, that it was 'prior to the introduction of the Norman and Gothic styles, for in every respect it is purely Saxon.' Dr. Milner, from whose reputation as a writer on architectural antiquities, we might expect a sounder opinion, declares that 'the present cathedral bears intrinsic marks of the age assigned to its erection, namely, the twelfth; as does Cormac's church, now called Cormac's hall, of the tenth.'—*Milner's Letters*, p. 131. And lastly, Mr. Brewer, somewhat more cautiously indeed, expresses a similar opinion of the age of this building: 'This edifice is said to have been erected in the tenth century; and from

its architectural character few will be inclined to call in question its pretensions to so high a date of antiquity.'—*Beauties of Ireland*, vol. i., Introduction, p. cxiii.

A reference, however, to the authentic Irish Annals would have shown those gentlemen that such opinions were wholly erroneous, and that this church did not owe its erection to the celebrated Cormac Mac Cullenan, who flourished in the tenth century, but to a later Cormac, in the twelfth, namely, Cormac Mac Carthy, who was also king of Munster, and of the same tribe with the former."

"In the ornamental details of the building a peculiarity will be found to distinguish